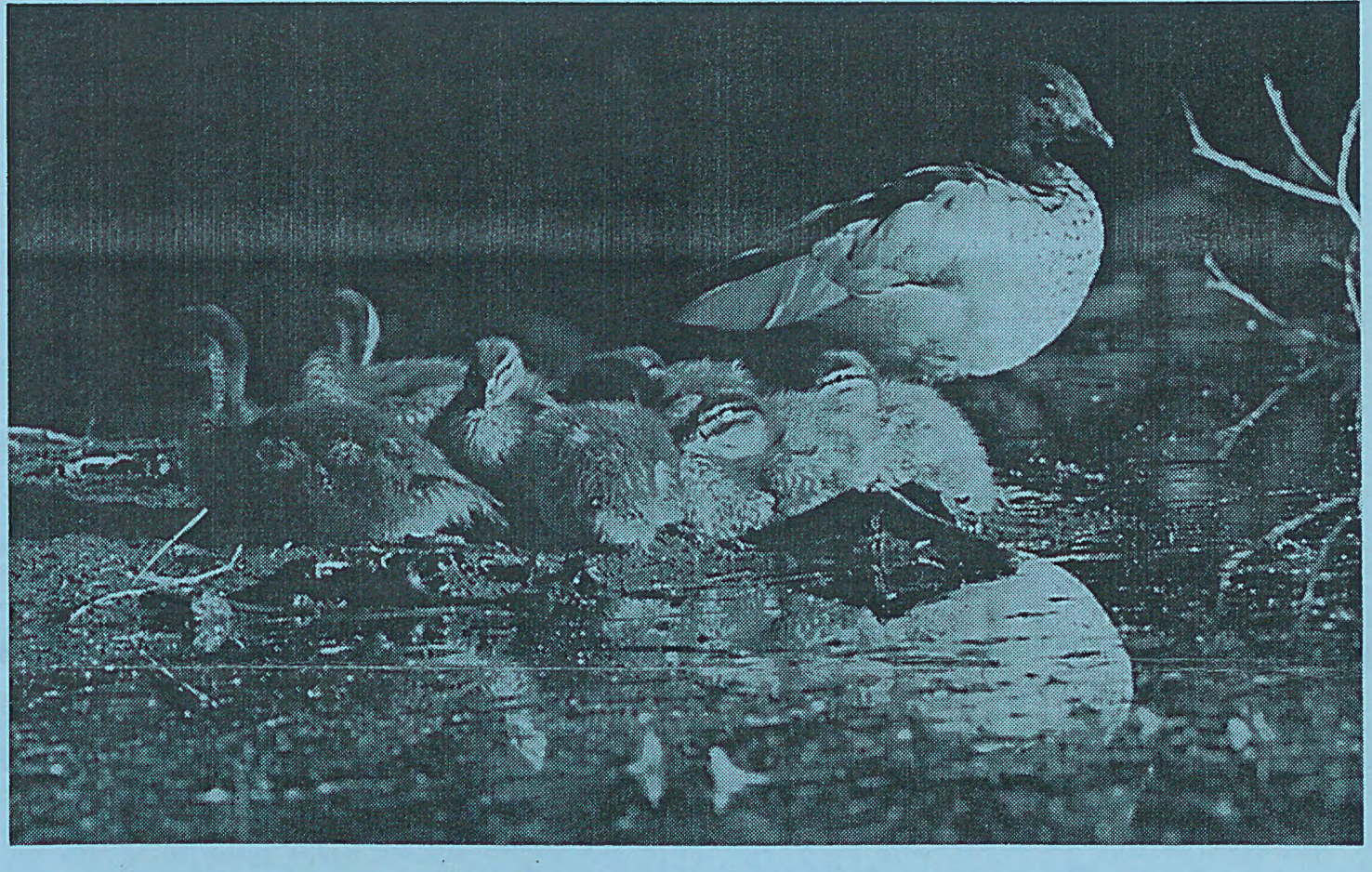
WHIRRAKEE

October 2000 Vol. 21 No. 9

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH4462



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552

Office Bearers for 2000 - 2001

President	Barbara Chmielewska	Melaleuca Ave, Longlea	5439 3075
Senior Vice President	Matthew Comer	Main Road, Goornong	
Junior Vice President	Rod Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
Secretary	Bill Holsworth	13 Nabilla Crs, Bendigo	5443 4063
Minute Secretary	Jane Cleary	24 Goynes Road, Epsom	5448 4396
Treasurer	Glenise Moors	Mandurang South Rd. Sedgwick	5439 6254
Membership Officer	Kate Lottkowitz	80 Piccaninny Rd, RSD Strathfieldsaye	5439 3157
Excursion organiser	Maurie Lewis		0407 427179
Syllabus organiser	Bill Holsworth	13 Nabilla Crs, Bendigo	5443 4063
Librarian	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
Whirrakee contacts	Tom Burton	Tannery Lane, Mandurang	5439 3028
	Sabine Wilkens	82 Somerville Street, Bendigo	5443 2797
		e-mail: s.wilkens@bendigo.latrobe.edu.au	

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The new subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34. These rates include GST.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. Meetings start at 7:30pm and conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearers listed above, together with the following members:
D Green; M Lewis; K Lottkowitz; P Robertson; Bob Ruddick

Excursions The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. Full-day excursions normally commence at 10am (usually on a Sunday); half-day excursions normally commence at 2pm and may be either on a Saturday or Sunday. Full-day or half-day excursions are usually held on the weekend following the General Meeting. Campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has 2 active sub-groups:

Bird Observers Group: meets on the first Friday of the month, at 7:30pm. The venue for meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

President: Anne Bridley
Secretary: Jane Cleary

Mammal Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Front Cover: Photographer: Ian Flecknoe-Brown

Wood Ducks (Maned Duck), *Chenonetta jubata*, at night on Kennington reservoir. This species is also called a Maned Goose but it is not a goose. It feeds exclusively on grass and other green herbage and, as a result, in places other than suburbia, it leads a nomadic lifestyle. Wood Ducks nest in hollow trees, often quite high off the ground (up to three metres). The young ducklings have to leap out of the nest, but because they are so light they fall more like a leaf and not like a stone. After this big fall they are escorted immediately to water by the parents where they remain until they can fly. This photo was taken in early spring last year.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 21, No. 9, October 2000

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Annual General Meeting. President's Report	Rod Orr	3
Annual General Meeting: Treasurer's Report	Glenise Moors	6
The Turtles of the Bendigo District, Part Four: The Broad-shelled Turtle	Darren Green	8
Plants flowering in the BFNC garden	Matthew Comer	9
From the Mailbag	Elaine Mathison	10
VFNCA 2001 March Camp	Latrobe Valley FNC	11
Speaker Syllabus for General Meetings	Bill Holsworth	14

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.
Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editors' Note

Another apology for the mis-spelling of the latest new member, Bernie (not Barrie!!) Young. This time I can promise that this won't happen again as the committee has decided not to print the minutes in the Whirrakee any more. The principal reason is that the version in the Whirrakee does not get formally approved until the following general meeting. However by this time is has already been printed and distributed (and sometimes there are mistakes in it....).

The annual general meeting went smoothly. There was no arm-twisting whatsoever as all the positions had been filled prior to the meeting. However there are a couple of appeals for help printed in this issue after the president's report. Please think about getting involved in these activities.

The Club has recently donated 300 dollars to the VNPA (Victorian National Parks Association) for their Box-Ironbark activities.

In the last Whirrakee one submission was printed in response to the Box-Ironbark Draft Recommendation and it was stated that there may be more. The Club's submission will appear in the next issue.

Lastly, please consider the VNPA appeal on page 10. I have a couple of brochures which tell the whole story to send out to anyone interested.

President's Report - Bendigo Field Naturalists' Club Inc. 1999 - 2000

Author: Rod Orr

The following account is a brief summary of the past year's activities:

Excursions

During the last year, we have had an interesting diversity of excursions, some of which were well attended. Some excursions were organised as extensions of topics discussed by speakers at our monthly general meetings but members were also encouraged to participate in excursions and Campouts organised by the Bird Observers' Group, the Mammal Study Group, Spring in the Bendigo Bush Committee, the Friends of Bendigo's Botanic Gardens and by the Victorian Field Naturalists' Clubs Association.

The following list reflects the diverse possibilities offered to club members by the excursions organised by these groups:

September
Spring in the Bendigo Bush - Wildflower Show (Bendigo Native Plants Group), excursions and activities - Wildflower Walk in the Whipstick with Graham Hill.

October
Strathfieldsaye Suburbia (with a difference) - Bird Observers' Group event at John Robinson's property.
Mammal Study Campout and Squirrel Glider Survey in the Benalla Region.

November
Excursion to Marilyn Sprague's wildflower nursery and to Geoff Gibson's arboretum.
Owlet Nightjars and other nocturnal birds - Bird Observers' Group excursion to Kerrie Norris's property.

December
Tang Tang Wildlife Reserve picnic.
Lunch at Lyal Glen with John Ipsen.
Bird Atlas Excursion with Bird Observers' Group to Kimbolton Forest.

January/February
Bird Atlas Excursions: Whipstick State Park; Nerring Whipstick.

March
Mammal Study Group - Bat capture and banding at Lake Weeroona.
Bird observations in the revegetation area on Big Hill.
VFNCA Campout at Geelong.

April
Bird Atlas excursion to Elvyne Hogan's property, Shelbourne.

May
Bird Atlas excursion to the Crosbie State Forest.

June
Bird Atlas excursion to Myers Creek (Sebastian to Raywood).
Fungus excursion to Bullarto.

July
Bird Atlas excursion to the Huntly section of the Wellsford State Forest.

August
Bird Atlas excursion to Sedgwick State Forest.

Guest Speakers

Dr Bill Holsworth has again produced an interesting and successful program of monthly speakers. On several occasions, we attracted audiences in excess of 75 members and friends who occupied absolutely all of our seating capacity. I am sure that this support demonstrates the success of the year's Guest Speaker program. We are fortunate that Bill is again willing to co-ordinate this important feature of the Club's activities for the next year of the Club's activities. As usual, Bill would appreciate suggestions (and contact details) for interesting speakers or ideas about interesting topics to pursue so that our meetings continue to be relevant and successful.

The Speaker program for the year was as follows:

September
Dr Tom Burton: 'What's in a name?'

October
Chris Tzaros: 'The Murray River as a riparian corridor for birds.'

November
Peter Johnson: 'Amphibians of North-central Victoria'

February
Dr Jenny Shield: 'Environmental issues and planning in the City of Greater Bendigo'

March
John Morieson: 'The night sky of the Boorong'

April
Dr Beth Gott: 'Aboriginal plant use and land management'

May
Dr Robert Seviour: Mushrooms and fungi'

June
Barry Phillips: 'Environmental law'

July
Les Vearing: Hollow formation in Box-Ironbark forests'

August
Lawrie Conole: 'Central Asia, Lapis-lazuli, horses and Hoopoes'

Nominations:
A very positive sign for our Club was the steady increase in new members who were nominated and accepted for membership of the BFNC during 1999 - 2000.

Activities
Club members continue to be involved in a wide range of activities as indicated by the following:

Adopt a Highway Project - from its inception, this project has been co-ordinated by Rob Watkins (Seven Sisters area of the Northern Highway) however we now need to find a new coordinator to ensure that this useful community function is continued during the next year.
Summer in the Parks Program (Maurie Lewis, assisted by Bill Holsworth, John Burtonclay and other members of the Mammal Study Group again led a Possum walk in Rosalind Park attended by a large number of participants).
Bendigo National Park Campaign This important campaign to achieve better conservation of the Box-ironbark forests surrounding Bendigo has continued to attract the support of many members of the Bendigo Field Naturalists' Club during this last year.
BFNC Garden Project - co-ordinated by Barbara - the completion of the latest stage of these works has seen the surroundings of our club-rooms improved on all but one side. It is hard to imagine, without the assistance of photographs to remind us that the building once stood alone, surrounded by a mostly green area of mown weeds.
Senior Citizens Recreation and Leisure Expo (BFNC again set up and attended an information table and a display concerning our activities & the local environment)
Campaspe Run Koori Garden Project (Elmore) - this project has continued to demonstrate the great advantages of using selected locally indigenous plants to achieve a low maintenance garden.
Bird Atlas work has been continued by the Bird Observers' Group working in several areas around Bendigo.
Pioneer Gold Monument Project: Although a Council Environment Grant was received to allow us to improve the surroundings of the Pioneer Gold Monument by planting an appropriate garden of indigenous plants we have not yet been able to gain permission to actually start this work - another project, which could be complementary, has been proposed for the larger area to the West and South of the club-rooms and has yet to be finalised.
Tang Tang: A Tang Tang Swamp Action Plan has been prepared to regulate and monitor activities in this regionally important area - several club members continue to be involved in this process through their membership of the Friends of Tang Tang.
Spring in the Bendigo Bush program 2000.
Summer in the Parks 2000.

Many of these activities will continue into the next year at least as will many other aspects of our Club's community involvement.

Associations with other Field Naturalists' Clubs
Club members were in attendance at VFNCA meetings (Jane is President of this association) & Camps

Associations with State conservation organisations
EV & VNPA links continue to be maintained.
Several members attended the VNPA camp held at Geelong.

Attendance at seminars & workshops
National Firewood Conference: 'Firewood - a burning issue.'

Representation on local & regional committees
Whipstick Parks Advisory Committee; Friends of Tang Tang Committee; Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens Committee; Friends of Kennington Reservoir and Parklands Committee.

Special lecture
World Environment Day Lecture - Mr Ern Perkins OAM 'The value of retaining native vegetation.'

Other activities
Stan has continued his good work of preparing display material to illustrate various Club activities at Displays in the Library, in the Mall, for Spring in the Bendigo Bush and many other important occasions. Barbara has continued to organise very effective garden working bees to extend and maintain our locally indigenous gardens at the club-rooms.
The Hall Management Committee continues to keep things running smoothly - the hall is booked out only to trusted groups after they have been approved by Maurie Lewis. Maurie and Bill Holsworth are to be congratulated for their work in ensuring that our arrangement with the Council and the Golden Square Senior Citizens Club continues to run smoothly.
In conclusion
Many other contributions to the general good management of the Bendigo Field Naturalists' Club have been made by a very large number of

our members - virtually all of our membership list would have to be read out to do justice to everyone's contribution to our past year's activities. As our visitors continue to remark, everyone really does seem to know what needs to be done and they just go ahead and do it to make sure that everything runs properly.

I am pleased to be able to make this annual report of the Club's activities and to be able to thank all of our members who have made a contribution to the Bendigo Field Naturalists' Club's successful operation during the last year.

After the President's report and the Treasurer's report (see next page) were presented to the meeting, Rob Watkins presented a selection of slides to the members. The theme was 'Spring in Bendigo" and Rob showed, more or less in sequence of appearance, flowers and birds from the Bendigo region. The flowers began with the Shrub Violet which flowers at a time, June/July when there is very little else out in the bush. It is not easy to spot, but Rob said there is a small population at the end of Marnie Road. The last of the flowers are the Fingerflower and *Pelargonium rodneyanum* this latter can sometimes be seen right through autumn.
The Scarlet mint bush has had a good flowering season this year and *Grevillea alpina* has also been fantastic after being almost absent for many years due to disease. Unfortunately the disease, a leaf miner which causes yellowing of the leaves, is still present in the populations but perhaps its effect will not be as devastating as before. Still, just in case, enjoy the grevilleas while they are with us
Rob was not one hundred percent happy with the presentation (slides too dark, projector light too dim etc), but to all of us the slides were a treat and most of them had a story attached which made it extra special.

WANTED

People interested in forming a new *Whirrakee* folding team.

Time required: Usually first Wednesday of the month for one hour

Please contact Barbara Chmielewska 54393075 or Sabine Wilkens 54 432797

WANTED

People interested in coordinating/helping with the Adopt-a-Highway-Project

Time required: A day once or twice a year

If interested, please contact Rob Watkins on 54434891 for details

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2000

GENERAL ACCOUNT - INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURES		
Membership	3030.91	Whirrakee Production		1504.80
Subscription	337.50	Whirrakee Postage		643.88
Sales	113.50	Auditor		100.00
Donations	32.50	Subscriptions		174.50
Interest	409.35	Wildflower Show		461.98
Wildflower Show	991.95	Insurance		266.19
Trap Hire	200.00	Hall Maintenance		587.29
Grant for Garden	375.00	Stationery,Printing		95.15
Botanic Guardians	1145.00	Garden		37.54
GST	3.09	Bank Charges		26.87
		GST		15.68
		Miscellaneous:		
		Petty Cash	40.00	
		Conservation Donation	50.00	
		Incorporation Fee	33.00	
		Bat Detector	45.00	
		Name Bars	34.00	
		Travel Expenses	40.00	
		P.O.Box Rental	44.98	
		Mammal Box Materials	50.00	336.98
				4250.86
		Surplus for Year		2387.94
	$6638.80			$6638.80

Bank Balance at 1 August 1999		Bank Balance at 31 July 2000	
Cheque A/c	2257.99	Cheque A/c	4645.93
Term Deposit	8972.95	Term Deposit	8972.95
	11230.94		
Surplus for Year	2387.94		
	$13618.88		$13618.88

I have examined the documents and records supporting the above statements of receipts and expenditures and I am able to report that in my opinion the statement of receipts and expenditures as shown, fairly reflects the transactions that have taken place in the bank accounts of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc. during the financial year ended 31 July 2000.

D.D.Wright C.P.A.
Auditor

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2000

PUBLICATION ACCOUNT - INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURES	
Sales:		Book Postage	2.10
Wildflowers of Bendigo	1240.75	Bank Charges	2.85
Eucalypts of Bendigo	730.00		4.95
Birds of Bendigo	1031.00	Surplus for Year	5114.64
Orchids of Bendigo	1000.00		
Interest	1115.74		
Postage	2.10		
	$5119.59		$5119.59
Bank Balance at 1 August 1999		**Bank Balance at 31 July 2000**	
Cheque A/c	616.38	Cheque A/c	5731.02
Term Deposit	23556.84	Term Deposit	23556.84
	24173.22		
Surplus for Year	5114.64		
	$29287.86		$29287.86

MEETING HALL ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURES	
Hall Hire	3925.00	Hall Hire	2489.60
Bank Interest	2.39	Bank Charges	5.08
GST	12.00		2494.68
		Surplus for Year	1444.71
	$3939.39		$3939.39
Bank Balance at 1 August 1999		**Bank Balance at 31 July 2000**	
Cheque A/c	401.75	Cheque A/c	1846.45
Surplus for Year	1444.71		
	$1846.46		$1846.46

I have examined the documents and records supporting the above statements of receipts and expenditures and I am able to report that in my opinion the statement of receipts and expenditures as shown, fairly reflects the transactions that have taken place in the bank accounts of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc. during the financial year ended 31 July 2000.

D.D.Wright C.P.A.

Auditor

11/9/00

The Turtles of the Bendigo District
Part Four

The Broad-shelled turtle ***(Chelodina expansa)***
Author: Darren Green

The Broad-shelled Turtle is found throughout the Murray-Darling River system, and into coastal Queensland. Although not as common, and possibly not indigenous to the region, the Broad-shelled Turtle is also found at Lake Weeroona, with several confirmed reports and sightings by the author. This is the only known confirmed area this turtle has been observed in the Bendigo region, however it is possible they may also be found in the Loddon and Campaspe Rivers (although searches by author indicate otherwise at this time). Also conjectural, inland/coastal populations may become separate sub-species as research unfolds (Cann 1998). *C.expansa* generally inhabits permanent rivers, streams and waterholes within its range.

Description
The Broad-shelled Turtle is the largest of the *Chelodina* turtles, and is perhaps one of Australia's largest freshwater turtles. Females may reach a formidable carapace length of 480mm, however specimens around 380mm are more common. Males may reach a carapace length of 320mm and have a noticeably longer and broader tail than females of similar size. The carapace is brown in colour, which may a times be covered in algae, while the plastron is a pale cream colour (which may be tannin stained and thus red-brown). The head is long and broad, with little depth for its size. Skin is grey above, to a pale cream below. It may be distinguished from the Eastern Long-necked Turtle (*C.longicollis*) by its narrow plastron which tapers posteriorly in shape, and uniformly pale cream in colour. *C.longicollis* is a much smaller turtle with dark seams on the plastral plates and broad plastral lobes near the rear limbs.

Reproduction
No confirmed breeding has been recorded for this species in the Bendigo district. However, one female caught from Lake Weeroona was palpated and found to contain eggs, subsequently it was induced to lay, with eggs going bad early into incubation, thus indicating infertile eggs. This turtle was caught while digging a hole at the waters edge near the pavilion, to the train line/oval end of the lake. For turtles along the Murray River, nesting usually occurs from March to May (Autumn) where 12 to 20 eggs are deposited, measuring 25x37mm (17.1gm) which may take 126 days to incubate at 30oC.

Further Reading
CANN, J. (1998) Australian Freshwater Turtles, Cann & Beaumont Publishing, Singapore.

A Field Guide to Australian Birdsong
Editors: Rex Buckingham, Len Jackson,
Voice: Len Grice

12 cassettes, each one running for approximately 60 minutes.
The cost is $12.50 per cassette (except no. 12 which is $13.00).
The cost of the complete set is $ 140.00

1. *Emu to Striated Heron*
2. *Rufous Night Heron to Chestnut Rail*
3. *Red-necked Crake to Black-naped Tern*
4. *Sooty Tern to Superb Parrot*
5. *Regent Parrot to Masked Owl*
6. *Eastern Grass Owl to Ground Cuckoo -shrike*
7. *White-winged Triller- White-breasted Whistler*
8. *Little Shrike-thrush to Halls Babbler*
9. *Chestnut-crowned Babbler to Redthroat*
10. *Calamanthus to Noisy Friarbird*
11. *Little Friarbird to Scarlet Honeyeater*
12. *Crimson Chat to Torresian Crow & Supplementary Calls*

Booklets available without cassettes each $ 2.50

This brings the total number of species recorded in this series to 701.

Contact Bird Observers Club of Australia
Tel 03 9877 5342 or 1300 305 342
National Headquarters PO Box 185, Nunawading Vic. 3131

Box Ironbark Ecology Course
Puckapunyal
30th October - 3rd November 2000
for land managers, educators, naturalists, landholders, local government and those interested in better understanding the ecology of this unique ecosystem.
Five absorbing days of field studies in the heart of Box Ironbark country.
For information contact Dianne Marshall, Tel. 0394124608 or
email: di.marshall@nre.vic.gov.au

Plants Flowering in the BFNC Garden, September 2000

Author: Matthew Comer

The garden continues to look fantastic with many species in full bloom. The wattles, grevilleas and the bendigo Wax are particularly showy. Some specie are still covered in flowers after many weeks.

Key:
1- beginning to flower
2- in full bloom
3- flowering almost finished

Acacia acinacea	Gold Dust Wattle	2
Acacia aspera	Rough wattle	2
Acacia ausfeldii	Ausfelds wattle	2
Acacia flexifolia	Bent leaf wattle	3
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle	2
Acacia Williamsonii	Whirrakee Wattle	2
Austrostipa elegantissima	Feather Spear Grass	1
Brachyscome cardiacarpa		1
Brachyscome dentata		1
Bracteantha viscosa	Sticky Everlasting	1
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	Common Everlasting	1
C. semipapposum	Clustered Everlasting	1
Dampiera lanceolata	Grooved Dampiera	2
Daviesia ulicifolia	Gorse Bitter Pea	2
Dianella revoluta	Flax Lily	1
Eucalyptus leucoxylon	Yellow Gum	1
E. polyanthemos	Red Box	2
Grevillea alpina	Cats Claws	2
Hakea decurrens	Silky Hakea	2
Hardenbergia violacea	Sarsparilla	2
Kennedia prostrata	Running Postman	2
Leucochrysum albicans	Hoary Sunray	2
Olearia teretifolia	Cypress Daisy Bush	2
Ozothamnus obcordatus	Grey Everlasting	1
Philotheca verrucosus	Bendigo Wax	2
Pimelea humilis	Common Rice Flower	1
Poa morrissii	Tussock Grass	1
Prostanthera aspalathoides	Scarlet Mint Bush	2
P. denticulata	Rough Mint Bush	2
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass	1
Westringia crassifolia	Whipstick Westringia	2
W. eremicola	Slender Westringia	2

Fruit:

Dodonaea viscosa	Hop Bush	1

For public consultation
Victoria's Draft Native Vegetation Management Framework, August 2000
Management of Native Vegetation to provide a sustainable Landscape and protect the long-term productive capacity and environmental values of our land and water resources.
The unique beauty and diversity of Victoria's landscape and the importance of the underlying complex ecosystem are recognised internationally.

also for public consultation:
Restoring our Catchments
Draft North Central Native Vegetation Plan
July 2000
Both documents are available from North Central Catchment Management Authority, Huntly (free of charge)

It would be good if as many people as possible obtained a copy and responded.

Murray-Darling Basin Commission, Community Strategy Seminars

The Department of Natural Resource and Environment, in conjunction with the Murray Darling Basin Commission, cordially invites you to attend a seminar on the Murray-Darling Basin Initiative Communication Strategy.
Lawrie Kirk,Education Manager, Murray Darling Basin Commission,and Lin Martin, Econnect Communication Pty Ltd, will facilitate each seminar.
Aim:
• to raise awareness about the Murray-Darling Basin Initiative Communication Strategy and Communication Strategy Guide
• to enable partners involved in the Murray-Darling Basin Initiative to use the Communication Strategy and Guide for their own communication planning activities
• to raise awareness about support for the Murray Darling Basin Commission's communication activity mapping exercise.

The details for the Bendigo Meeting are given below (please contact the editor for details of the Benalla meeting, if interested)
Date Tuesday 10th October
Time: 9.00 am till 12.30 pm (lunch provided)
Venue: DNRE Offices, Cnr Midland Highway and Taylor Street, Epsom (Bendigo)
Contact: Jenny Pendlebury, DNRE, Bendigo
e-mail: Jenny.Pendelbury@nre.vic.gov.au
Tel 5430 4420

From the Mailbag
Author: Elaine Mathison

Each month the club receives a number of newsletters and magazines: some by subscription and some in exchange for Whirrakee. These are available from the club library.

* * * * * * *

THE VICTORIAN NATURALIST(FNCV)
Volume 117(4) August 2000

"Ant & Termite Activity in Box-Ironbark Forest" by John Gibbens outlines a survey of changes in ant and termite activity and community structure as signs of ground layer disturbance. Grazed and ungrazed areas east of Bendigo provided the sites.

"A Survey of Butterfly Fauna, Mansfield, Victoria" by John Wainer & Alan Yen reports that twenty-one species of butterflies were recorded during studies at the Paps Scenic Reserve. Two species of conservation significance were recorded.

"Yellow-bellied Glider in South Gippsland" by E. & J.NcNabb & R.Willig deals with the discovery of this species during recent surveys of large forest owls. The observations were made in the Mullundung State Forest

* * * * * * *

Also received recently:

*Castlemaine Naturalist(CFNC)
September 2000
*Geelong Naturalist(GFNC)
September 2000
*Newsletter(Ballarat FNC)
September 2000
*Newsletter(Maryborough FNC)
Feb-Aug.2000
*Sun-Nat(Sunraysia FNC)
Sept-Oct.2000
*Land for Wildlife News
July/August 2000

* * * * * * *

HABITAT(ACF)
August 2000

"The Wonder of our Woodlands" by Charlie Sherwin describes Australia's 'best kept secret'. Once covering nearly two fifths of the country, now these are our most threatened wooded ecosystems with little recognition and poor protection. A special supplement outlines the present situation throughout the nation.

- The Complex Game of Protecting Whales
- Looking after Country: the ACF Indigenous Program
- Coming Soon to a Suburb Near You: Australia's Latest Nuclear Reactor
- The Heat is On - Climate Change in the New Millenium

* * * * * * *

Land Purchase Appeal from VNPA

The Club recently received a letter from the VNPA president James Ensor, appealing for donations towards purchasing a parcel of land as a reserve, particularly for Night parrots and 33 other threatened species of birds. The money will go to the Bird habitat acquisition fund.
"A friend recently recounted to me that after eyars of field work in the Chiltern forest, he had realised that the lovely melodic call of the crested bellbird could no longer be heard. Further investigation revealed that several other species had also disappeared from this small patch of forest. What he and others have been witnessing was the local extinction of several woodland birds...
...While small reserves may be adequate to protect viable populations of some plants and smaller animals, we know that for many birds and larger animals small reserves won't support adequate populations in the long term. To halt these extinctions, we need national parks and reserves that are as large as possible with habitat of the highest quality possible."
If you are interested in making a donation to this worthwhile project, contact Sabine Wilkens for a brochure about the project (54 432 797, ah).

VFNCA 2001 March Camp

Rawson – Central Gippsland

9th - 12th March 2001

Hosted by the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

The Latrobe Valley FNC would like to invite you to the March 2001 VFNCA camp to be based at Rawson, north of the Latrobe Valley.

Venue: Rawson Village, Pinnacle Drive, Rawson
Dates: Friday 9th March - Lunchtime Monday 12th March

Costs:
3 nights accommodation & meals, $150 per head (Sat breakfast - Monday lunch)
Own accommodation $ 80 per head
(with lunches & dinners Sat - Mon supplied).

Accommodation
Rawson Village provides comfortable accommodation for up to 180 people in either the hostel or lodge. The hostel section contains rooms with 3 double bunks plus en-suite. The older lodge section accommodates 2 or 3 people to a room with shard bathroom and tea making facilities. Pillows and blankets will be provided, but participants will need to bring their own linen or sleeping bags, towels etc.
Meals to be provided are breakfast, lunch and dinner from Saturday breakfast through to Monday lunch inclusive. Friday night dinner will not be included but may be booked in advance at an approximate cost of $ 13 (plus GST). Cooked breakfasts and 2 course dinners will be provided, and lunches of sandwiches and fruit will be supplied to take on excursions. Supper is available each night with self-service tea and coffee making facilities. Rosters will be required to clear tables.
The Rawson Caravan park is already fully booked, but participants wishing o camp can use the Karingal Scout Camp which is about 16 km from rawson. Site are $ 4 per person per day and 15 sites have been tentatively reserved for the 3 nights from 9th - 11th. If you would like to camp, please contact Phil Rayment on 51221050 ASAP.

Program
Full day and half day excursions will be conducted on Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning led by local and invited field naturalists. The registration form provides space for indicating the excursions that individual participants would like to join. A range of guest speakers and displays are being organised for the evenings, and further details will be given in the next circular.

Excursion Information
At this stage the following range of excursions have been planned. The final scheduling of excursions will take account of people's preferences indicated on the booking form.
See map on the following page for locations.

1 **Baw Baw Plateau: Mt Erica and Mushroom Rocks** (sub-alpine plant communities and interesting geology with Leon Costermans)

2 **Rehabilitation of a river system** (led by West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority staff)

3 **Baw Baw Plateau: Mt St Gwinear** (Peter and Kathie Strickland, sub-alpine flora)

4 **Walhalla and environs** (historic area and re-opened Goldfields railway)

5 **Rintoul's Creek** (discover cretaceous plant fossils along this creek)

6 **Wirilda Environment Park** (gentle walk, plants and bird watching)

7 **'Dunedin' Tyres** (visit the restored garden of the late Jean Galbraith, leaders Bon and Ollie Thompson)

8 **Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve** (a community based rehabilitation project)

9 **Forest Management** (a look at logging coups and water catchments)

10 **Moondarra Reservoir and Wirilda Track** (explore a nature trail and observe bird life)

11 **Morwell National Park** (Foster Gully section and/or Billy's Creek area)

12 **Life Cycle of a River** (led by geologist David Thomas)

Monday morning excursions: (followed by lunch in the Moe Botanic gardens)

continued on page 14.....

VFNCA RAWSON MARCH CAMP 9th - 12th March 2001

BOOKING FORM

Booking preferences will be allocated on a 'first in first serve' basis

Contact name: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Phone number: ..... email .....

ACCOMMODATION BOOKING

Fill in details below for people willing to share a room (if full accommodation required). Please indicate if you have a preference for the hostel (up to 6 per room) or lodge (2 or 3 per room), or else leave column blank.

	Accomodation (please tick)		Hostel or
Name	Full	Own	Lodge?

EXCURSION SELECTION

Mark the preferred excursions for each person attending the camp. (See information sheet for excursion numbers)

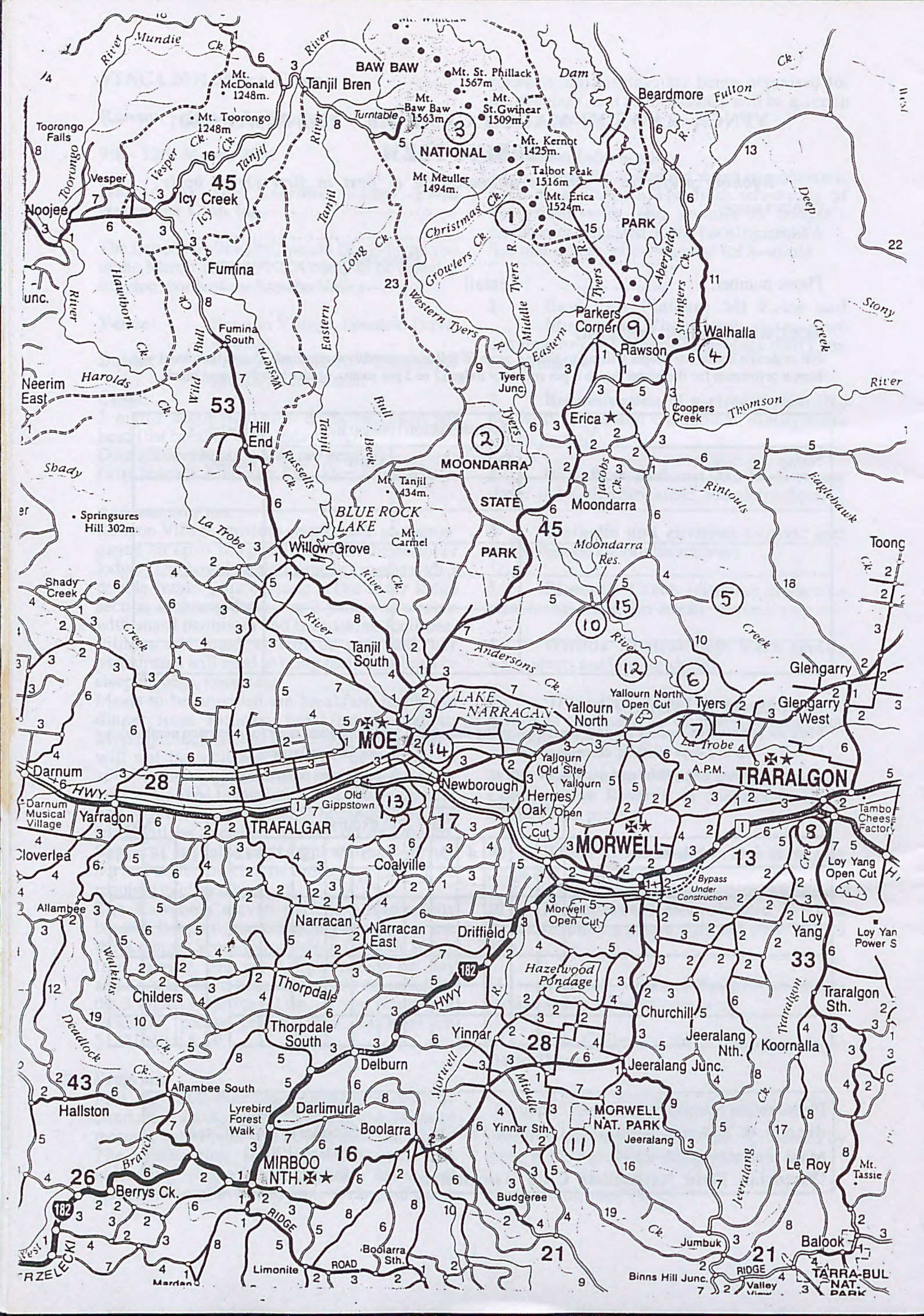
List: up to 2 days worth of excursions with a **1** (for first preference)

one or more additional excursions with a **2** (for second preference)

	Sat / Sun excursions												Mon		
Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Please return completed form and cheque for **deposit of $30 per person** by **October 15th** to:
Make cheques payable to:
'Victorian Field Naturalists Club Association'

Wendy Savage
Secretary, LVFNC Inc.
PO Box 1205
Morwell 3840


BAW BAW
NATIONAL
PARK
MOONDARRA
STATE
PARK
BLUE ROCK
LAKE
LAKE
NARRACAN
MORWELL
NAT. PARK
MIRBOO
NTH.
TARRA-BUL
NAT.
PARK
Tanjil Bren
Mt. McDonald
1248m.
Mt. Toorongo
1248m
Toorongo
Falls
Vesper
Icy Creek
Noojee
Fumina
Fumina
South
Neerim
East
Hill
End
Springsures
Hill 302m.
Willow Grove
Shady
Creek
Tanjil
South
Darnum
Darnum
Musical
Village
Yarragon
TRAFALGAR
Old
Gippstown
Cloverlea
Coalville
Allambee
Narracan
Narracan
East
Driffield
Childers
Thorpdale
Thorpdale
South
Allambee South
Hallston
Lyrebird
Forest
Walk
Darlimurla
Boolarra
Delburn
Yinnar
Yinnar Sth.
Berrys Ck.
Limonite
Boolarra
Sth.
ROAD
RIDGE
Budgeree
Jumbuk
Binns Hill Junc.
Balook
Le Roy
Mt.
Tassie
Jeeralang
Junc.
Jeeralang
Nth.
Churchill
Koornalla
Traralgon
Sth.
Loy
Yang
Loy Yang
Open Cut
Loy Yan
Power S
Tambo
Cheese
Factory
TRARALGON
A.P.M.
Yallourn
North
Yallourn North
Open Cut
Tyers
Glengarry
Glengarry
West
Toong
Yallourn
(Old Site)
Yallourn
Hernes
Oak
Open
Cut
Newborough
MOE
Morwell
Open Cut
Bypass
Under
Construction
Hazelwood
Pondage
Driffield
Tyers Junc.
Erica
Coopers
Creek
Rawson
Walhalla
Parkers
Corner
Beardmore
Fulton
Mt. St. Phillack
1567m
Mt.
Baw Baw
1563m
Mt.
St.Gwinear
1509m.
Mt. Kernot
1425m.
Mt Meuller
1494m.
Talbot Peak
1516m
Mt. Erica
1524m.
Mt. Tanjil
434m.
Mt.
Carmel
Moondarra
Moondarra
Res.
Tanjil Bren
Turntable
Dam
Mundie
Ck.
River
Vesper
Ck.
Icy
Ck.
Tanjil
River
Long
Ck.
Western
Tyers R.
Middle
Tyers R.
Eastern
Tyers R.
Tyers
R.
Aberfeldy
R.
Stringers
Ck.
Christmas
Ck.
Growlers
Ck.
Bull
Beck
Eastern
Tanjil
Western
Tanjil
Wild
Bull
Ck.
Hawthorn
Ck.
Harolds
Ck.
Russells
Ck.
Jacobs
Ck.
Rintouls
Eaglehawk
Creek
Thomson
River
Stony
Creek
Deep
Creek
Shady
Creek
La Trobe
River
Andersons
Ck.
River
Creek
Ck.
Creek
Ck.
Creek
Ck.

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Speaker Syllabus for General Meetings – Second Wednesday 7:30 pm

Date – 2000	Topic	Speaker
11 October	**Soils of Bendigo**	**Nathalie Baxter** Land Evaluation Officer Centre foe Land Protection P.O. Box 3100, Bendigo Mail Centre. 3554
8 November	**Australian Snails**	**Brian Smith** Curator Emeritus. Museum of Victoria Honorary Research Fellow, LaTrobe University, Bendigo
13 December	**Christmas Dinner**	There will be no speaker this month but there will be some form of entertainment provided.

...continued from page 11

13 **Edward Hunter Heritage Bush Reserve** (a town reserve with particularly diverse flora)

14 **Moe-Yallourn Rail Trail** (a recent community project)

15 **Moondarra reservoir** (a shortened repeat of excursion 10)

Please note that the booking form and the deposit needs to returned by 15th October.

For further information please contact:

Wendy Savage 56342246 (AH) email: savage@dcsi.net.au

Philip Rayment 51221050 (AH) email: p.rayment@sci.monash.edu.au

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Mammal Survey Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 7:30
This month's speaker is Nathalie Baxter, Land Evaluation Officer, Centre for Land Protection. The Topic is 'Soils of Bendigo'.

Spring Cleaning of Clubrooms
This annual event will take place on Saturday 16th December 9 am till 12 noon.
Please come and help make the place look lovely.

Bird Observers Group

October 1– Loddon River/Serpentine Area.

November (date to to be confirmed)–
Tang Tang Wildlife Reserve.

December 3– Marong State Forest.

Atlassing Excursions are conducted on the first Sunday of every month.
Meet 9am at the Clubroom, this is a half-day excursion.
Please contact Anne Bridley (ph. 54 493479) if attending.

Supper
The usual arrangements for supper are as follows: members either bring a plate or pay $1 for supper. This small amount is used to reimburse members who purchase essential supper supplies.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 35643

Other Events

VFNCA Spring 2000 Camp Out

Based at Kismet Riverside Lodge, Howlong October 12th to October 15th

Host : Albury Wodonga Field Naturalists Club.

For a registration form and details of the program see July *Whirrakee*
Enquiries including alternative accommodation options in Corowa, Rutherglen.
Albury/Wodonga - Contact:
Glenda Datson 0260 401090 or fax 0260 406242 email datson@albury.net.au
Neil Blair 0260 235964 (w) 0260 212097 (h), 0260 235965 (fax), email nblair@neilblair.com.au

---

Stella Bedgood Memorial Lecture
3rd November 8 pm
hosted by the Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat in the Ballarat Horticulture Centre at the corner of Gillies and Gregory Streets, Ballarat.
Guest Speaker: David Welch, a senior member of Parks Canada with expertise and interest in ecosystem integrity management in national parks, marine parks and coastal parks,and effects on climate change. At present he is visiting research fellow at Centre for Environmental Management, University of Ballarat.

Advance Notices

VFNCA 2001 March Camp
Rawson - Central Gippsland 9-12 March 2001
Hosted by the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

see page 11 for details
Note that a deposit is requested this month.

Fenner Conference on the Environment 2001
Biodiversity conservation in Freshwaters - same landscape, different perspective 5-8th July 2001 hosted by the Australian Academy of Science and the Co-operative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology in Canberra.